AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 16, 17 and 19-52 are pending. Please amend claim 9 as follows. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claims listing(s).

1. (Previously Presented) A method for facilitating a collaborative circuit design simulation between a first simulation engine and at least a second simulation engine, wherein said simulation engines are communicatively coupled together with a simulation portal over a computer network, said method comprising:

creating said simulation portal openly accessible to said first and second simulation engines connected to said computer network;

accepting a connection to said simulation portal by each of said first simulation engine and said second simulation engine;

receiving a circuit design simulation output file at said simulation portal from said first simulation engine; and

providing said circuit design simulation output file from said simulation portal upon request to said second simulation engine.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said creating said simulation portal further comprises:

creating said simulation portal using XML; and

configuring said simulation portal to allow connections from each of said simulation engines connected to said computer network.

3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising managing circuit design simulation output files for multiple simulations running contemporaneously.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein accepting said connection further comprises:

verifying said connection with a username and password combination.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A system for performing circuit simulations wherein a first simulation engine and at least a second simulation engine are communicatively coupled together with a simulation portal over a computer network, said system comprising:

means for creating said simulation portal;

means for accepting connections to said simulation portal from each of said first simulation engine and said second simulation engine;

means for receiving at said simulation ~~stimulation~~ portal one or more circuit design simulation output files from said first simulation engine; and

means for providing said one or more circuit design simulation output files from said simulation portal upon request to said second simulation engine.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said means for creating said simulation portal include creating said simulation portal in XML.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein said means for accepting connections includes verifying said connections with a username and password combination.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program product embodied on computer readable medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for facilitating a collaborative circuit design simulation between a first simulation engine and at least a second simulation engine, wherein said first and said second simulation engines are communicatively coupled with a simulation portal over a computer network, said computer program product comprising:

instructions for making said simulation portal openly accessible to said simulation engines over said computer network;

instructions for accepting a connection to said simulation portal from each of said first simulation engine and said second simulation engine;

instructions for receiving a circuit design simulation output file uploaded from at least said first simulation engine; and

instructions for providing said circuit design simulation output file to at least said second simulation engine upon request.

13-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions for managing circuit design simulation output files for multiple simulations running contemporaneously.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein said instructions for accepting said connection further comprise instructions for verifying said connection with a username and password combination.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A method for optimizing the components in a system design comprising:

creating a simulation portal that is openly accessible over a computer network;

accepting a connection to said simulation portal from each of a plurality of design teams communicatively coupled together with said simulation portal over said computer network;

receiving a circuit design simulation output file at said simulation portal from at least one of said plurality of design teams connected to said simulation portal;

providing at least one of said circuit design simulation output files from said simulation portal to at least one other of said design teams connected to said simulation portal; and

selecting the optimal components for said system design based on a comparison of said circuit design simulation output files.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein accepting said connection further comprises verifying said connection with a username and password combination.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said design teams are not connected to the simulation portal at the same time.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising terminating said connection to said simulation portal from any of said plurality of design teams upon request.

23. (Previously Presented) A simulation portal comprising:

a data storage repository, capable of storing data for each of a plurality of circuit design simulations;

a communications server, allowing a plurality of simulation engines to connect to the portal and to participate in one or more of the plurality of circuit design simulations; and

a simulation controller, managing and synchronizing communications between the participating simulation engines,

the portal being created dynamically.

24. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the simulation controller manages simulation data for multiple circuit design simulations running contemporaneously.

25. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the data includes a synchronization file to allow the participating simulation engines to match timing steps, said data associated with each of the circuit design simulations available to any simulation engine participating in the circuit design simulation.

26. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 25, wherein the synchronization file is updated by each simulation engine participating in the circuit design simulation as it simulates.

27. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the plurality of simulation engines includes any web enabled engine.

28. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the simulation controller verifies a username and password combination.

29. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the communication server allows each simulation engine to disconnect from the portal upon request.

30. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the plurality of simulation engines are not connected to the portal at the same time.

31. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the portal is terminated dynamically, by writing programming files and executing those files.

32. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the programming files are written in XML.

33. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the communications between the participating simulation engines and the portal uses XML.

34. (Previously Presented) The portal of claim 23, wherein the portal is created by an entity not participating in the circuit design simulation.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for conducting a collaborative circuit design simulation of a circuit design, comprising:

a) dynamically creating a portal by writing programming files in XML and executing those files;

b) granting access to the portal to a plurality of simulation engines;

c) receiving a circuit design simulation output file associated with a first portion of the circuit design from a first of said plurality of simulation engines;

d) storing the circuit design simulation output file in a storage area, said output file available to any of said plurality of simulation engines;

e) sending the circuit design simulation output file to each of said plurality of simulation engines upon request, at least a second of said plurality of simulation engines performing a circuit design simulation for a second portion of the circuit design using the output file as input; and

f) repeating c) through e) until the circuit design has been simulated.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising, g) terminating the portal by executing one or more XML statements.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the storage area includes a synchronization file associated with the circuit design simulation to allow participating simulation engines to match timing steps.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the synchronization file is updated by each simulation engine as it simulates.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each simulation engine terminates access to the portal after its output file is received.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the portal is created by an entity not participating in the circuit design simulation.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the portal is created by an entity participating in the circuit design simulation.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein granting access to the portal comprises verifying a username and password combination.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the simulation output file includes an industry standard output format.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the circuit design simulation output file includes a vendor specific output file format.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving the circuit design simulation output file includes receiving circuit design output files from multiple circuit design simulations running contemporaneously.

46. (Previously Presented) A circuit design simulation system comprising:

a portal comprising a storage area to store data used in each of a plurality of circuit design simulations; and

a plurality of simulation engines in communication with the portal, the plurality of simulation engines able to send circuit design simulation output files to the portal and able to

receive any of the circuit design simulation output files from the portal.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the plurality of simulation engines are not in communication with the portal at the same time.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the communications with the portal uses XML.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the communications with the portal requires the verification of a username and password combination.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the stored data includes a synchronization file to allow simulation engines participating in the circuit design simulation to match timing steps.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the synchronization file is updated by each simulation engine as it simulates.

52. (Previously Presented) A circuit design simulation system comprising:

a portal comprising a storage area to store data for use in a plurality of circuit design simulations; and

a plurality of web-enabled simulation engines in communication with the portal, the web-enabled simulation engines being in communication with each other so that a circuit design simulation output file generated by a first simulation engine can be sent as a circuit design input file to a second simulation engine.